

August 07, 2006

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**Congressman Dan Lungren, Representing California's Capital Region - 3rd District**

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### ***Dear Friends,***

The summer months are winding down and the House has entered its summer recess, which will give me an opportunity to work in the District. I look forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming series of Town Hall meetings in Galt, Jackson and Fair Oaks. Details regarding each event can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- **Flood Control**

Flood control in the Sacramento region continues to be a top priority of mine and remains at the top of my list in appropriations requests. In my work as a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am continuing to work with Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to coordinate the FEMA roll-out of preliminary maps of the region.

This year, I was able to take several tours of the levees including a tour with Governor Schwarzenegger in February. Also, I was able to give President Bush an aerial overview of the flood threat the state faces as we flew in the Presidential helicopter across the Sacramento Region. The Army Corps of Engineers have determined 29 critically eroded sites requiring repair this year. Members of the US Congress, the Administration, the state legislature, and California's governor have combined their efforts to secure funding and to streamline the environmental regulation application process. Repair of the 29 critically eroded sites began in July and is scheduled to be completed by November of this year. The heavy rains from earlier this year have created additional sites that will be listed as priority for repair next year.

Increasing flood protection in the Sacramento Region requires not only levee repair but also increasing flood protection at the Folsom Dam. Since last year, I have been meeting regularly with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers regarding ways to increase flood protection at the Folsom Dam. The Bureau and the Corps have collaborated in an unprecedented way to design an alternative to the modified gates proposal which will cost less and achieve greater flood protection than the

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***Please join us at one of our upcoming Town Hall meetings!***

- **Wednesday, August 16**  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm  
Galt City Hall  
380 Civic Drive  
Galt, CA 95632
- **Saturday, August 19**  
10:00 am to Noon  
Jackson Civic Center  
33 Broadway  
Jackson, CA 95642
- **Wednesday, August 23**  
7:00 pm to 9:00pm  
Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
7997 California

original modifications. Once built, this Joint Federal Project (JFP) for a spillway at Folsom Dam and Reservoir will bring the Sacramento Region to 200-year flood protection.

Currently, the Sacramento Region has less than 100-year flood protection. To put this in perspective, New Orleans had 250-year flood protection when Katrina hit. While all the efforts being made on the levees and at Folsom Dam are to be commended, it is necessary that we not lose sight of what it takes to give the region maximum flood protection. Auburn Dam combined with the JFP would provide between 400 and 500-year flood protection and must be considered. To avoid the escalating costs of materials, labor, etc., it would be prudent to consider the construction of the Auburn Dam in the near term in order to save the taxpayers money.

- **Folsom Bridge and Road**

As many know, I have a longstanding interest in completion of the Folsom Bridge and its associated road work to provide a necessary alternate route due to the closure of the Folsom Dam road in 2001. In working with Congressman Doolittle, funding was secured in the FY06 budget for continued design work and initiation of construction. Public Law 109-103 signed by President Bush on November 11, 2005 not only provides funding but also directs the Secretary of the Army to expedite construction of the bridge. Completion of the Folsom Bridge and roadway continues to be a top priority of mine.

Construction of the bridge and roadway is scheduled to begin early next year with a completion date of December 2008. I will continue to work with House and Senate appropriators, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Administration, and the City of Folsom to ensure this project holds to its time line.

- **Legislative Updates**

In addition to working on issues specific to our 3rd California District, I would like to let you know about several pieces of federal legislation I have introduced and co-sponsored in the past few weeks.

- **Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act**

On June 28, I introduced HR 5695, an amendment to the *Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Act of 2006*, which would provide for the regulation of certain chemical facilities. The amendment would require high risk facilities that are vulnerable to incidents of chemical terrorism to assess the nature and extent of potential dangers to facility employees and the public. These facilities would then be required to submit a comprehensive security plan identifying means by which to reduce the threat of potential chemical terrorist incidents. The bill was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, a

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committee on which I serve. In addition, it has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

- **Criminal Terrorism Improvements Act**

On July 27, I introduced the *Criminal Terrorism Improvements Act of 2006*. This legislation would authorize the death penalty for terror related crimes involving weapons of mass destruction. It would also increase the penalties for those who provide material support to terrorists, deny federal benefits to convicted terrorists, apply the federal wiretap statute to include all terrorism-related offenses, and apply criminal penalties to conspiracies and attempts to receive military type training from a foreign terrorist organization.

- **Alternate Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act**

I cosponsored HR 5526, the *Alternative Pluripotent Stem Cell Therapies Enhancement Act*, which would have authorized the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct research on the derivation and isolation of alternate sources of pluripotent stem cells. Pluripotent stem cells are those which can develop into virtually any cell in the human body. This non-controversial bill would have intensified federally funded research into new means of obtaining stem cell lines that do not destroy human embryos. While the Senate version of this legislation passed unanimously, it was inexplicably defeated in the House.

- **Combating Autism Act**

Several weeks ago, I co-sponsored HR 2421, the *Combating Autism Act of 2005*, which would include provisions for research, screening, and early intervention, as well as information and education about autism for health professionals and the general public. Currently, one in 166 children born in the United States will be diagnosed with autism. The Center for Disease Control estimates that between one and 1.5 million Americans are presently affected by autism. This number is expected to rise, however, as autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the nation. The Senate counterpart to this bill was recently passed out of committee and is awaiting approval of the full Senate.

It is an honor and privilege to serve you. I hope to see you at one of our Town Hall meetings this month.

If you have questions or concerns, or if you need assistance with a federal agency, please contact my Gold River office at (916) 859-9906 or visit my website at [www.lungren.house.gov](http://www.lungren.house.gov). My staff and I are always available to address your concerns, answer your questions, and listen to your ideas.

Sincerely,



**Daniel E. Lungren**

**Member of Congress**

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### ***Your Questions***

Many of you responded to our invitation to submit questions in our last newsletter. As promised, here are my responses to the two most frequently asked questions:

- *Can you help get some laws passed to limit emissions, increase required gas mileage in motor vehicles, and other measures?*

On May 11 of this year, I introduced the *New Options Petroleum Energy Conservation* bill, or NOPEC. In last month's newsletter, I described one feature of the bill – the award of a \$1 billion prize to the first American car manufacturer to successfully design and sell a midsize sedan that gets 100 mpg. In addition to the prize incentive, the bill also encourages the production of clean, environmentally friendly energy by providing tax credits for electricity produced from climate neutral combustion processes. In addition, the bill authorizes \$30 million for the development of advanced lithium ion battery technology. Finally, NOPEC encourages the production of alternative fuels (methanol, ethanol, and bio-diesel). In order to accomplish this objective, the purchase of property used for the refining of these bio-fuels would be expensed as a tax deduction for the year in which the property is placed in service.

- *Would you introduce a bill to over ride the Supreme Court ruling on the issue of eminent domain?*

Last year, Judiciary Committee Chairman James Sensenbrenner introduced HR 4128, the *Private Property Rights Protection Act* of 2005, which I cosponsored. The Act prohibits any state or political subdivision from exercising its power of eminent domain for economic development if that state or political subdivision receives federal economic development funds during the fiscal year. It also prohibits the federal government from exercising its power of eminent domain for economic development and establishes a private cause of action for any private property owner who suffers injury as a result of a violation of the act. Finally, a state is not immune from any such action in a federal or state court.

The *Private Property Rights Protection Act* passed the House and is currently in the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

## Contact Information

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